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# OUTGOING MESSAGE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

ITEMS MARKED & HAVE BEEN COORDINATED [redacted]

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THE ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE 1.5c
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND COULD DRIVE THE PARTY INTO
OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION. [redacted] THE GOVERNMENT
PRESS OFFICE RELEASED TWO LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE FORMER
INTERIOR MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY. [redacted]

//EARLY LAST MONTH THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED WHAT IT
CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE PROGRAMMING TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAJOR
STATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' RADIO NETWORK. PARTY
PRESIDENT AYLWIN SENT A STRONGLY WORDED LETTER OF PROTEST TO
THEN INTERIOR MINISTER BONILLA AS A RESULT OF THIS DIRECTIVE.
BONILLA REPLIED IN KIND, BLUNTLY REPRIMANDING AYLWIN FOR ENGAGING
IN CONDUCT INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE LEADER OF A "RECESSED"
POLITICAL GROUP. THE TONE OF HIS RESPONSE MAY HAVE BEEN STIMULATED
BY BONILLA'S DESIRE TO REGAIN FAVOR WITH THE MILITARY, SOME OF
WHOM HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF HIS PERFORMANCE AS INTERIOR MINISTER
AND HAD ACCUSED HIM OF BEING OVERLY SYMPATHETIC TOWARD THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. [redacted]

//WHY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE CHOSE TO MAKE BOTH

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LETTERS PUBLIC THIS WEEK IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF RIGHT-WING CIVILIAN ADVISERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THE PARTY NOW IS AWAITING THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO A SECOND LETTER IT SENT BONILLA. IT ANTICIPATES REPLYING TO THIS RESPONSE WITH YET ANOTHER--THIS ONE TO BE SIGNED BY ALL FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN--THAT WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE BROAD CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. [redacted] 1.5C

//THE GOVERNMENT'S NEXT MOVE MAY TAKE THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL CESAR BENAVIDES, THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER. BONILLA WAS MOVED TO THE DEFENSE MINISTRY DURING THE CABINET SHAKE-UP EARLIER THIS MONTH. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, BENAVIDES IS KNOWN AS A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN WHO HAS NO SPECIAL TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. [redacted]

//RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE APPROACHED THE BRINK BEFORE, BUT UP TO NOW NEITHER SIDE HAS WANTED TO RISK AN OPEN BREAK. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE DISPUTE APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN ON A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN, AND BOTH SIDES

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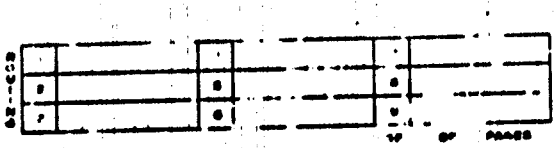

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MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR TO BACK DOWN. MOVEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS INTO OPPOSITION WOULD SERIOUSLY ERODE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM TO MASS CIVILIAN SUPPORT AND WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE JUNTA'S ALREADY POOR INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. [redacted] 1.5C

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